

P. J. g.
3
780 l. 3 s.
Monopoly made a Property:

O R,

K. G. B. & J. - Navy - Surgeons

The Navy Surgeons

MEMORIAL

TO

The Managing APOTHECARIES
in BLACK-FRIERS.

*Complaints, tho' ne'er so Just, may want Success;
But yet without, there can be no Redress:
We therefore ought, like Freeman, to Complain,
Or Slavishly submit to wear the Chain.*

Printed in the Year 1708.



han
Ge
the
hav
Du
and
Lin
ope
to
Mo
Inju

MONOPOLY,

MADE A

Property, &c.

Gentlemen,

HAVING jointly taken into our serious Consideration, the unreasonable Advantages you procure to your selves, by imposing great hardships, not only upon a Few, but the Generality of the Surgeons appointed for the Service of Her Majesty's Navy, we have at last conceiv'd it but a Justifiable Duty, grounded upon the Interest of many, and the better Security of the Lives and Limbs of Her Majesty's Seamen, to lay open the Frauds and Abuses we are forc'd to suffer at the Miserly Hands of your Monopplizing Worshipps, often to the great Injury of our selves and Families, and

A 3

sometimes

sometimes to the damage of such Persons, on Board the Navy Royal, whose Healths being impair'd by Wounds, Accidents, or Sickness, become our Care, not yours, by God's help, to cherish and recover by our diligent Endeavours.

But, the sinister and corrupt Practices of you, the Pretenders to much more Honesty than ever our Fraternity could find among you, since we have been oblig'd, by an Order, to have our Chests fitted at your Common-Hall, give us just reason of a Publick Complaint against such Trusty Managers, who, regarding little besides the Fingering the Pence, leave the rest of the Business to such sottish, careless, and unskilful Servants, not worthy to be Trusted with so weighty an Affair, except your Views were more regular. But what can we expect? Since your Cabal are Govern'd by Two or Three crafty Misers, who have more respect for ungodly Mammon, than their pretended Consciences, and a greater love for their old wither'd Hides, than for the Publick Wellfare.

We therefore crave leave to re-mind your grave Worshipps, that, among other Abuses, your denials of our Certificates without just reason, after repeated Applications from time to time, do not only occasion us to neglect our Duty, to the hazard of such of her Majesty's Seamen, who
may

may happen, in our Absence, to have need of our Assistance; but prove so highly Injurious to most of our Fraternity, who venture our Lives in the Service of our Country, that when we return Home, hoping to Comfort our Families with the Fruits of our Labours, we must have more fatigue with your stupified Gravities, to obtain our Certificates from your Avaritious Fingers, than what we find in the performance of our Duty, during a Sickly Voyage to the *West-Indies*; and after all must be forced to sneak and creep with bare Heads, and bended Necks to your worthless Understrappers, and sit Waiting and Wine-Bibbing, to our great Expence, time after time, at your *Hall Spunging-House*, before we can get our Business dispatch'd, or our Chests fitted; nay, and at last be oblig'd to scatter our Benevolence among your *Craving Attendants*, as Quality going out of Town do their Ostentatious Charity to a Tatter'd crowd of *Parish-Mumpers*, or else we are as sure of a further Delay, as a Rich Man is of a *Beggar's Curse* that does not pay him for his Blessing.

But these being but a small part of the many Grievances we for several years have unhappily labour'd under, since you have ingross'd to your selves the fitting our Chests for the Navy Surgeons, we shall therefore make bold to re-mind your Superannuated Gravities,

Gravities, of the honest Ways and Means you were forc'd to use, and the false Suggestions you were glad to insinuate behind the Curtain, as well as the prevailing Promises you so generously made to his R---l H---s; which last, indeed, tho' they have never been perform'd in the least Particular, were the specious Grounds and plausible Considerations, upon which, undoubtedly, the very Order was granted.

So that we cannot forbear, most Renown'd Sophies, to give you a short Memorial of your long Forgetfulness of all your fair, but fruitless Promises, which, if not owing to the doating Infirmities of decrepit Age, must certainly be charg'd home upon your wilful Remissness, and unconscionable Avarice; which are Faults so detestable in so weighty an Undertaking, that you ought, at least, to forfeit that abus'd Courtesie; which, tho' well intended by the Power that gave it, yet was not at first very fairly obtain'd, nor has it since been very honestly manag'd, but carry'd on in Hugger-mugger, by three or four Crafty Avaritious Muckworms, to the great Injury and Disappointment, as well as Disparagement of the Navy Surgeons in General, who are forc'd daily, by your Fraudulent Impositions, to become Humble Suters, and Liberal Contributors, not only to your Money-loving Clerk, but your Clerk's Clerks; as also to your Wheedling
Broker,

Broker, or rather Wapping Sweetener, employ'd by your Worships to Cozen young Fools, by buying up their Wages at unreasonable Advantages to you that employ him; and to screw the Necessitous out of Exorbitant Discounts, for the prompt Payment of such Moneys which ought to be receiv'd at the same time without the least Deduction, would you grant them their Certificates, as you ought to do, in due Season; which consider'd, together with the great Expences we are often forc'd to in depending and waiting at your Coffee-House, Tavern, Cajoling and Treating all the thirsty Crew of your incroaching Underlins, amounts sometimes to at least a Moity of our Wages, to the great Impoverishment of our selves and Families: Which intolerable Grievances, as well as many other Abuses and Enormities, we shall here make manifest in the following Particulars, as soon as we have put you in mind, after what manner you first obtain'd of his *Royal Highness* your advantageous Order; which, tho' it was granted, upon your fair Proposals, with a generous Design of preventing such Abuses in the fitting out our Chests, as Doctor A——s and your selves had falsely insinuated, without the least Grounds, to his *Royal Highness*, and his Council; yet your selves now turn the Authority granted you into so great an Oppression, by the fraudulent Execution

Execution and tedious Delays of the Business you have undertaken, that we are not able to be longer silent under such hard Usage.

Tho' some of your Sage Worships seem to be past every thing but the love of Money, yet, I hope, you cannot but remember upon what Unjust Accusations, Groundless Clamours, and Fictitious Calumnies, you at first laid the Foundation of your Monopolizing Project; endeavouring to insinuate (when we had it in our own Power to fit our Chests by such Apothecaries as our selves thought most proper, being then under the same view) that their Drugs were decay'd; their Medicines ill dispenc'd; their Quantities too small; their Qualities abus'd for want of due Preparation, and abundance of such like frivolous Objections, which were nothing more than your own windy Surmises, without Proof, or Evidence, purely contriv'd, for no other Reason, but to facilitate your Purpose of ingrossing the Service of all the Medicines for the *Navy Royal* into your own hands.

For when, upon these imaginary Complaints, (which were undoubtedly suggested from your own Shop Practices) you had obtain'd an Order from his R—— H——s, dated *June* the 30, 1703. for a Review being made at Apothecary's-Hall, of all our Medicines, Drugs, Instruments, &c. which were fitted out for the *Royal Navy's Service* for that

that Year: Pursuant to your and your Confederates new Authority, our Chests were remanded from *Portsmouth, Chattam, &c.* which were accordingly sent up Seal'd to your most Sumptuous Edifice in *Black-Friers*, where they were submitted to the view of your Zealous Friend Doctor *A—s*, one of the Commissioners of the Sick and Wounded, who joining his penetrating Judgment to some of the vacant Noddles of your own Company, made up the High-Court of Justice, who were to Examine, Try, and Condemn our Chests, which, to the number of near Fifty, were openly expos'd to the Interested Prejudice of their Partial Judges, who, putting on your Considering Caps as well as your Spectacles, made as nice an Inspection into our Medicinal Gallimaufries, as if your Wisdoms were fearful we had corrupted our Chests, by destructive Poisons, into *Pandora's Boxes*.

But after your skilful Assembly had peep'd as narrowly into our several *Arcana's*, as ever a *Moorfields Quack* did into a full Urinal, and your Learned Confederate Doctor *A—s* had talk'd as much like an Apothecary, as your selves like Physicians, the greatest Discoveries you could all make by your Partial Scrutiny, center'd in no more than one Chest, among the whole number that were fitted out by the Apothecaries for that Year, notwithstanding you had before

B

rais'd

rais'd such unjust Clamours, upon your own groundless Surmises, against the Staleness of the Druggs, and the badness of the Medicines, with which the Apothecaries of our own chusing were, without just reason, suspected to have furnish'd us; yet to show our Impartiality, we cannot but acknowledge there was one Chest more that might, in some measure, deserve your Wisdoms Disapprobation, but that was not fitted out by any of the Town Apothecaries, who, in those days, you so highly Exclaim'd against, tho' of your own Fraternity, on purpose to Monopolize (as you have since done) the whole Business of the Navy into a few Hands; but that deficient Chest was furnish'd by a Surgeon at *Wappin*, and it is very likely by a Stratagem of your own, that your previous Complaints might have some colour from your colateral Examination: For the Mercenary Consciences of such Men who are alone Govern'd by Self-Interest, may be reasonably suspected to be guilty of so much Sinister Policy, as to contrive a way how to make good a former Accusation you had charg'd against others, by a future Discovery you pretend to make among your selves; for we have an old Proverb which tells us, *viz. That the Fox is oftentimes the finder.*

And that your sleepy Worshipps, who hang your hoary heads as drowsily as your Poppies, may receive from us much fairer Usage
than

Sick
geon.
Fleet
recei
merly
Servi
from

than you have justly deserv'd, we have here given you a recital of your first Order, in hopes to convince our Modesties beyond Excuse, That you obtain'd the same by pretended Abuses on your sides, which, tho' your selves now Practice, you were never able to make good against us; and Secondly, By your falacious Promises to his *Royal Highness* of furnishing our Chests with Medicines better and cheaper, when you must needs be satisfy'd in your own Consciences, you had neither Will or Power to perform the same, as we shall make Evident by our Remarks upon the following Order, and the Arguments that from thence we shall impartially deduce.

A true Copy of the Order dated
June the 30th, 1703.

Gentlemen,

MR Care and Concern for the Preservation of the Seamens Health, having made me Order the Physicians of the Sick and Wounded, &c. to Review the Surgeons Chests, that had been prepared for the Fleet this Summer, upon the Intimation I had receiv'd of the Medicines, that had been formerly, and were again provided for the Sea Service; and understanding, by the Report from the said Physicians, that they found but

too much Ground for a Complaint, and that there were great Abuse in Preparing the Surgeons Chests, and Negligences, or Collusions, in the Inspecting and Approving of them. To prevent the same as much as may be, and that the Medicines for the future may be better and cheaper, I do Desire, and Direct you to order the Surgeons of their Majesties Ships, to furnish and provide their Chests at the Common-Hall of the Company of Apothecaries, and not in any other Place; the said Company having assur'd me, they will furnish both Good and Cheap; and that they do not pay any Surgeon either free Gift Money, deducted from Seamen, or their Wages, unless they produce Certificates from the Physicians in the Commission of the Sick and Wounded, as well as the Governours of the Company of Surgeons, that they have received, and approved of their said Chests; that is, the Physicians of the Internal Medicines, and the Physicians and Surgeons of the External, and from the Committee of the Apothecaries Company, that they have paid or satisfied them for the said Chests. And being inform'd that the Medicines in the said Chests are not Proportion'd according to the number of Men, for whom they are provided, and that the Sorts are not such as they ought to be, with respect to the Diseases incident to Sea-faring Men, I have ordered the said Physicians, and Governours of the Surgeons Company, to agree
upon

upon, and settle such an Invoice as they shall think proper for Ships of every Rate. According to which, and not otherwise, you are to require the Surgeons of the Fleet, to furnish their said Chests respectively. I am

By an Order from his Royal Highness of the 19th Instant, all Surgeons of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels are to keep a sort of Journal, or History of their Methods of Practice in General, as well as of all Extraordinary Cases in Particular.

And that the said Journal to be deliver'd to the said Commissioners for Sick and Wounded at the end of each Voyage, and no Wages to be paid to any of them until they produce Certificates from the said Commissioners of their having so done.

His Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark, &c. Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, and Ireland, &c. and of all Her Majesty's Plantations, &c. and Generalissimo of all Her Majesty's Forces, &c.

Whereas I have by my several Orders for remedying the Abuses which have been committed by the Surgeons of the Fleet in relation to their Medicines, directed that

that the said Surgeons should furnish their Chests at the Apothecary's-Hall in the City of London, and that the same should be there inspected by the Physicians in the Commission for Sick and Wounded Seamen, and Sealed with their Seal, to prevent Imbezlements. And also, That the Surgeons of all Ships which shall be fitted out to Sea at Plymouth, should furnish themselves with Medicines from thence, out of such as should be lodged there by the Company of Apothecary's; and that the same should be viewed by the Physician and Surgeon for the Sick and Wounded at that Port, and Sealed as above; and that the same Methods should be used from time to time in recruiting the said Chests, with Medicines, Druggs, &c. And whereas it is represented to me, That notwithstanding my said Orders, divers Surgeons of the Fleet do frequently send their Chests on Board unsealed, and without View; and that they have, for some Years past, taken so few Medicines, that there is reason to suspect the Service is not duely provided for, or that they furnish themselves elsewhere. And it being absolutely Necessary for the Preservation of the Men serving in Her Majesty's Ships, (which is of so great Consequence to the publick Service) that the Surgeons should be obliged from time to time to take sufficient Supplies of good Druggs, and Medicines; and that such as shall appear to be decay'd, and not fit for use, should be Destroy'd

Destroy'd; And I having therefore given some further Orders to the said Commissioners for Sick and Wounded, in relation to the furnishing Medicines to Her Majesty's Ships at any other Ports whereat any Physician, or Surgeon is appointed for Sick and Wounded Seamen, as well as those of London and Plymouth. I do (for rendering my said Orders the more Effectual) hereby strictly Charge and Require you, that upon the fitting out to Sea of Her Majesty's Ship under your Command, you do not permit your Surgeon's Chest of Medicines to be brought on Board, unless Sealed as aforesaid, or unless you shall receive therewith a Letter from the said Physicians in the Commission for Sick and Wounded Seamen, or one of them, or the Physician and Surgeon of the said Port of Plymouth, or other Port or Place where your Ship shall be, signifying their View and Approbation of the said Medicines. And as often as your Ship shall have Occasion to refit, you are to Cause your Surgeon to send on shore his Chest, either to the Apothecary's-Hall (if in the Port of London,) or to the usual Place of View appointed by the Physician and Surgeon at the Port where the Ship shall be refitting; there to be viewed and approved, such Supplies added as shall be found wanting, and the Chest return'd on Board Sealed, with a Letter to your self from the Physician and Surgeon of the said Port. And
if

if the Ships shall be refitted in a Port where there are not Medicines lodged by the Company of Apothecarys for the Purposes aforesaid, you are then to receive from the Physician and Surgeon of the said Port, not only their Approbation of such Druggs and Medicines as shall be in your Surgeon's Chest, but an Account of what they shall find wanting to Recruit the said Chest, according to the Invoice established for a Ship of her Rate, and send the same to the Company of the Apothecarys at their Hall in London; from whence you will receive the said Medicines, &c. Sealed up, with a Letter from the Physicians as aforementioned. And in case you shall discover your Surgeon Guilty of any indirect Practices or Endeavours to evade these my Orders, you are to give Notice thereof to my Secretary for my Information, that so he may be displaced from Her Majesty's Service, in order to the deterring others from the like ill Practices. Given under my Hand this 12th of February, 1703.

To the respective Captains,
and Masters, and Com-
manders of her Majesty's
Ships and Vessels.

We would not have you think (for we know you are Gentlemen very subject to Mistakes) that we have so little sense of
our

our Duty, as to reflect upon the Order it self, or the Power that granted it, who pass'd it, we are sensible, with a Wise and Generous Disposition of preventing those Abuses and Collusions, which you had falsely Insinuated against the Surgeons of the Navy, as also the Apothecaries by whom our Chests were fitted, tho' never practic'd by any but your selves since you have Monopoliz'd the furnishing of all our Chests into your own Fingers.

We find expressly, by the Words of the foregoing Order, that it was partly granted upon an Intimation that his *Royal Highness* had receiv'd, viz. *Of the Badness of the Medicines provided for the Sea Service, &c. and understanding by the Report of the said Physicians, (meaning the Commissioners of the Sick and Wounded) that they found but too much Ground for a Complaint, &c.*

Now, in this place it is but reasonable to Enquire what were the Grounds of the Complaint. Why truly upon the presumptive Accusation first made, and the Abuses charg'd home, before your Confederates could prove them true, the Complainants obtain'd an Order to review all our Chests fitted out for that Summer, that they might try how far they were able to discover, by a dim and partial Inspection, the verity of what they had alledg'd in the dark, before they had any other Grounds than their Self-Interest, and their own

own false Surmises, for the Foul and Scandalous Charge they had exhibited against us: And when they had thus obtain'd a Power of becoming Judges in their own Cause, what Old Fumbling *Æsculapius*, who had but just Brains enough left to prescribe Brimstone for the Itch, or Shaving, Bleeding, and Abstinence for a Lunatick, would shew himself such a *Jack-Adams*, as not to Report in general Terms, when it so highly concern'd his Interest, *viz. That there was too much Ground for a Complaint, &c.* especially when you had taken care, by what's too generally Practic'd, that the Return of your View should be Receiv'd and Credited without any Opposition that might stop the Progress of your Monopolizing Project.

But now we shall Enquire further what Subsequently appear'd to confirm your Complaint when our Chests were open'd, and our Medicines view'd by your skilful Supervisors appointed for that purpose, for fear what they did not understand should not be honestly prepar'd, *Secundum Artem*; and truly after a tedious Inspection by the necessary help of Mr. *Marshal's* best Spectacles, and the many Debates that arose about Trifles which just signify'd nothing, it was at last Unanimously concluded, by the most Learn'd Confederacy, that one Chest in about the number of Fifty, as we have before specify'd, was thought unfit for Service,

Service, because the *Diapompholigos* Pot happening to be broke in its Carriage from *Portsmouth*, was discover'd to be cap'd with new; and this is the principal Abuse they could discover in all the Chests fitted out by our own Apothecaries for that Year, notwithstanding they had rais'd such mighty Clamours against the Medicines of such Persons, at whose Shops they knew we were most commonly furnish'd; for tho' they were pleas'd to Condemn another Chest, yet that was fitted out, as I said before, by a *Wappin* Surgeon, and not by any of those Apothecaries who us'd to be the standing Marks of the *Monopolizers* Envy, because our assurance of having good Medicines at reasonable Rates, had induc'd us to deal with them, instead of those their Enemies, whose exorbitant Prices, and other ill Usage, had forc'd us to forsake 'em.

Thus we may see, tho' upon a prejudic'd Review, they could discover no more than the Negligences, or Collusions, aforementioned, in so great a number as near Fifty Chests, yet, by the Artifices us'd, and the Interest made, your *Monopolizing* Project, by the warm assistance of your Friend Doctor A——s, had its intended effect; so that he, for his good Service in giving a strenuous Elbow to the Grand Affair, hop'd thereby to be intituled to a plentiful Sallery in the time of Peace as well as War; and your

Plodding Worships injuriously ingross'd into a few Hands the Medicinal Business of the whole *Navy-Royal*, which us'd to be the Property of the Surgeons employ'd in that Service, to disperse thro' the Apothecary's Trade in General, by every one Dealing where he could be best us'd, before it was made a *Monopoly* by an avaritious Crew of unconscionable Oppressors.

Another part of the Order says, *viz.* *To prevent the same (meaning Abuses) as much as may be, and that the Medicines for the future may be better and cheaper, I do Desire and Direct you, to Order the Surgeons of her Majesty's Ships to furnish and provide their Chests at the Common-Hall of the Company of Apothecary's, and not in any other Place, the said Company having assured me they will furnish both Good and Cheap, &c.*

These Words including so fair a Promise, seem to import the Principal Consideration upon which the Order was granted; therefore, most Worthy, as well as Worshipful Sirs, I hope you will not be angry, if we narrowly Enquire how far you have fulfill'd this part of the Obligation, because it is as much for our honest Advantage to have it punctually perform'd, as it is for your sinister Ends to be negligent of the same; for the better your Medicines are, and the cheaper you sell 'em, the more profitable it is for us and our Patients; but by sweet Experience
you

you have made your selves too sensible, that the worse they are, and the dearer you sell 'em, the more gainful it proves to you that are the Managers: And, pray what should hinder a Covetous Cabal of Crafty Jugglers from making their utmost Advantages of a Project form'd, notwithstanding your specious Pretences, for no other purpose but to magnifie your Estates by an unreasonable *Monopoly*? Besides, what should obstruct or disappoint your avaritious Ends? Since Dr. A——s, the most busie Viewer of your Medicines, and your selves are all of a Piece, and have mutual Advantages thereby, inso-much that I think we may justly apply the old Proverb to you all, *viz. The Devil a Barrel better Herring.*

Nor can we imagine upon what Grounds, Prospect, or with what Confidence you could presume to make so impendious a Promise, as to sell Better and Cheaper than the rest of your Fraternity, when you could not be so ignorant, but to know beforehand, you must fall under an inevitable necessity of breaking your Word, to accomplish the Ends of your Project, which was Self-Profit, by unreasonable Extortion, the infallible consequence of every *Monopoly*: But it is now grown too Practical among all Modern Politicians, to couch the foulest Designs under the fairest Pretences.

Again,

Again, with what *Irish* assurance could you promise, that your Medicines should be Better than what we formerly were furnish'd with? Since you are sensible your Chymical Operator is but a Young Proficient, not Bred in a Laboratory, but in the knowledge of the Use, and not the Preparation of Medicines: And when he was first employ'd in your Worships Service, tho', perhaps, he had often dream'd of *Glauber* and *Paracelsus*, yet, it is well known, he scarce knew a Bolt-head from a Half-flask, or a Retort from a Urinal; yet, if you please, we'll acknowledge him a pretty Fellow; but what tho' he be never so Tractable and Ingenious, his Years cannot have allow'd him that necessary Experience to confirm his Judgment, equal with Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Molts*, Mr. *Godfrey*, &c. Men of Age, Art, and Character, who have so often repeated all the Courses of Chymistry with universal Approbation, and by whom all the Apothecaries we us'd formerly to deal with, have been all along furnish'd with their Chymical Medicines; so that I think we may Modestly say, There is little reason to believe your Chymical Preparations are better than theirs, or, indeed, so good as they should be, because they have often been prov'd Counterfeit by other Chymists.

Besides, every Chymist of Reputation buys his own Drugs, and will be careful they are good,

good, for the Credit of their Medicines, which no Man is bound to buy by any Order from the Admiralty; so that if they are found naught, they injure at once both their Character and their Business; their Medicines having nothing to recommend them to Sale but their own genuine Goodness.

But your Worships Opperator is upon a different Foot, and is forc'd to be content with such Druggs and Simples as you are pleased to furnish him with; and we know your Worships are such Frugal Gentlemen, as to think that which is cheapest, tho' bad, most fit for your Purpose: In short, how can we expect to be Honestly dealt by, since we that are your Customers, are forc'd, not only, to your Hall, but to take such Quantities of such Medicines as your Confederate Physician and your selves, shall think proper for your Interest, and at your own Prices; and if we murmur, or complain of our ill Usage, we are presently call'd Rascals, and threaten'd with the loss of our Employments; so that hitherto we have been oblig'd to conceal, for our own safety, what we ought to have Publish'd, and compell'd to bear what we ought not to have suffer'd.

To further prove how you impose upon us, and how far you deviate from your promise of Better and Cheaper; I hope you cannot but remember what a Considerable

derable parcel of *Cortex Peru* you bought of a certain Person at Three Shillings and Six Pence *per* Pound, which you afterwards charg'd to us at Twenty Shillings *per* Pound, and sometimes more, as we are able to prove by our several Invoices; so that in the first place, it could not be Good because you bought it so Cheap; and in the next place, you could not be Honest, because contrary to your Promise, you Sold it us so Dear.

Nor is this the only particular Instance of the Unjustifiable Hardships you impose frequently upon us; for notwithstanding you propos'd to his *Royal Highness*, that all your Medicines should be faithfully dispens'd at your common-Hall, and that an Affidavit should be made to the same purpose, yet it has been render'd evident by indubitable Persons, that you have Bought up large quantities of stale Medicines from your private Friends, at very low Rates, with which, contrary to your Promise, you have furnish'd our Chests, and charg'd the same, instead of Better and Cheaper, at *Cent per Cent*, to the great Abuse both of our selves and Patients; for we have been often forc'd to pay Extortion for such worthless Medicaments as have lost their Vertue, old Shop-keepers, more fit for a Dung-hill than the Sea-Service.

And that your Worships may not want instances of these your Sinister Practices,
pray

pray be pleas'd to remember the Four or Five Hundreded Weight of *Venice Treacle*, *Mithradate*, and the large Quantities of *Gascoins Powder*, with many other Particulars, which you have bought at once, out of a private Shop in *Grace-Church-Street*, for the Service of the Navy, and impos'd them upon us as your own genuine Preparations, at unconscionable Prices.

Therefore, since you can buy much cheaper of others than you can make your selves, why is it not reasonable to believe that others may serve us at more easie Rates, and with as good Medicines, notwithstanding the specious Pretences you Falaciously made to his *Royal Highness*, in order to accomplish your injurious Monopoly.

Neither is there any Affidavit made of the true Preparation of those Medicines which are dispenc'd at your Common-Hall, according to your Proposals, and also the Order of his *Royal Highness*; so that the Trust and Management of the Gainful Affair, are wholly left to the doubtful Sincerity of your Worthships own Consciences, which we have all along had great cause to fear, are too large, or too little, to do us common Justice.

Besides, Monopolies were ever found full of unsufferable Frauds, and heavy Exactions, and the crafty Monopolists always deserving of the odious Character of Miserly Oppressors.

And that it is a Monopoly, there is nothing more evident; for tho' the Order was sued for, and obtain'd in the Name of the Company, which was not fair Dealing with the Power that granted it, yet the whole Business is Engross'd, and Manag'd by half a Dozen of you at most, who will not so much as Summons any of the Subscribers to your Committees, which are never Annually Elected as they ought to be, according to the common Method observ'd in such Undertakings, but made up of only such Persons, who you have first engag'd to be true to your Interest; so that you carry on the whole Affair in so obscure a manner, that the rest are kept Strangers to your dark Proceedings, that the Advantages of your Project may plentifully flow, abstracted from the rest of the Subscribers, into your own Pockets.

Secondly, Before the Order was obtain'd, the furnishing the Navy-Surgeons with good and proper Medicines was diffusive at large thro' the whole Fraternity of Apothecaries, so that every one was free to share in the Advantage thereof; but now the whole Business is Engross'd into *Huxters* hands, to the intolerable Detriment, and great Impoverishment of the Trade in General, the Monopolists excepted.

Thirdly, Having so great a Vend for your Medicines, and a Publick Stock to Trade with,

with, it gives you frequent Opportunities of Engrossing Druggs at a time of Scarcity, which would otherwise be in Common to the whole Trade, that even those of your own Fraternity, who have no Authority in your Hall, must be compel'd to pray, and pay most Extravagant Rates for them, to your hungry Substitutes, by your Order, so that they must be forc'd to swell their Bills, and advance the Prices of their Medicines, to the great Oppression of their Needy Patients, which is an Injury to the Poor, as well as to the Publick in general.

Fourthly, Tho' time out of mind it has been a Liberty allow'd, intirely consistent with the Business of a Surgeon; for every one to fit out his own Chest wheresoever he pleases, and with such good Medicines as he shall think proper; but still, for the prevention of any Frauds, to have our Chests subject to such a View as the Government shall appoint; Yet now by your Monopoly we are totally abridg'd of that Priviledge, and forc'd to submit to such Medicines, both in Quantity and Quality, as you and your Confederate Physician shall impose upon us at your own unreasonable Prices, so that we are often over-burthen'd with a parcel of useles and unnecessary Trifles, purely for the promotion of your own Private Interest, and as often straighten'd in more valuable Medicines of ten times the efficacy: Besides,

in the Business of Surgery, there are daily new Discoveries, and the course of Practice very often alters, according to the different Climates to which we happen to be Bound; but as the Case now stands, we must be still confin'd to an old dull Envoice, settled by such Interested Persons, who know nothing, or very little of the matter.

Therefore, since the Surgeons of the *Royal Navy* are absolutely divested of their Antient Priviledge of Buying, and the Apothecaries of Selling their own Medicines, except such who are list'd into your Cabal of Managers, pray how can your Injurious Project deserve any other Denomination than a *Pernicious Monopoly*? For tho' the Word, in a *Gramatical* Sense, signifies the Engrossing of Commodities into the hands of but one Person, yet, in the Sense of the Law, it is the same thing, tho' accomplish'd by several.

As to the Prince's Letter to the Commanders of the Fleet, we only Re-printed it to shew his *R——l H——s's* Princely Care, and Good Intention, to prevent all such Frauds and Collusions as might, in all probability, be put in Practice by some ill Men, to the Danger and Abuse of her Majesty's Seamen; but as the Complaints at that time laid before the Prince's Council, were principally Grounded upon the Complainants Private Interest, in order to invest
themselves

themselves with a Power of committing, for their own Advantage, those very Abuses which they had charg'd upon others without just Reason, we therefore have thought it our Duty to clear our selves, as also our Friends, with whom we formerly Dealt, from the false Imputations which Doctor A——s, in Confederacy with your selves, have been pleas'd so unjustly to cast upon us, as if you had a mind to verifie the Old Political Maxim, *viz. That Private Calumny, is better than Publick Force, to ruin a Dangerous Adversary.*

And that all things in relation to our present Affair may be set in a clear Light, and Matters on both sides be very fairly Canvass'd, we shall charge you with nothing but undeniable Fact, in return of the fatal blow you have given, not only to us, but your own Fraternity, tho', like unskilful Gladiators, you had always the misfortune of carrying your Weapons with a false edge.

Therefore, to further prove what a wonderful regard you have always had to your promissory Insinuations of Better and Cheaper, those indearing Words, which were the very Shoeing-Horns that drew on your Project to its intended Issue, we cannot but refresh your declining Memories with the following Invoice, wherein it will plainly appear that you have charg'd
several

several Druggs as well as Medicines, at *Cent per Cent*, and the whole particulars of the Invoice, if jointly computed, at, or about *Forty per Cent*, as will be evident in the Articles of the following Invoice beyond all Contradiction.

A True Copy of an Invoice to shew the unreasonable Extortion of the Craving Monopolists.

	lb.	oz.	The Halls Prices.			The Prices we can be serv'd by private Apothecaries.		
			l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Aqua.								
Cinam. fort. ———	I			2	4		I	6
Epidemic. ———	I			2	4		I	6
Menth. Cord. ———	I			2	4		I	6
Mirabilis. ———	I			2	4		I	6
Theriacal. ———	I			2	4		I	6
Bals.								
Capivie. ———		I		2			I	4
Lucatelli. ———	I			4			2	6
Sulph. Anis. ———		I		2			I	
Tereb. ———		I			2			2
Virid. ———	I			3	4		2	
Conf.								
Abfinth. Rom. ———	I			2			I	6
Berberor. ———	I			2			I	6
Rosar. Rub. ———	I			2			I	6
Cort.								
Granator. ———	I			2			I	2
Peru. ———	I		I				10	

			The Hall's Prices.			The Prices we can be serv'd by private Apothecaries.		
	lb.	oz.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Elect.								
Diafcond. _____	I	—	—	3	4	—	2	4
Lenitiv. _____	I	—	—	3	4	—	2	4
Mithridat. _____	I	—	—	6	—	—	4	—
Ther. Androm. _____	I	—	—	6	—	—	4	—
London. _____	I	—	—	3	—	—	2	—
Empl.								
De Betonia. _____	I	—	—	2	8	—	1	8
De Cymino. _____	I	—	—	2	—	—	1	4
Diapalma. _____	I	—	—	—	9	—	—	7
Diach. cum. Gum. _____	I	—	—	2	4	—	1	8
Epispastic. _____	I	—	—	5	4	—	4	—
Acherniam. _____	I	—	—	3	—	—	2	4
Melilot. _____	I	—	—	1	—	—	—	9
De Minio. _____	I	—	—	—	9	—	—	7
Paracels. _____	I	—	—	2	4	—	1	8
De Ranis cum 3 ♀ _____	I	—	—	5	4	—	3	4
Oxyeroc. _____	I	—	—	8	—	—	5	4
Flor.								
Croci Angl. _____	—	1	—	3	4	—	3	—
Cham-mel. _____	I	—	—	2	—	—	1	4
Melilot. _____	I	—	—	1	6	—	1	—
Rosar. Rub. _____	I	—	—	6	—	—	4	—
Gum.								
Camphore. _____	—	1	—	1	6	—	1	—
Gambogij. _____	I	—	—	16	—	—	10	—
Myrrh. _____	I	—	—	6	8	—	3	4
Opij _____	I	—	—	16	—	—	13	4
Sang. Dracon. _____	I	—	—	12	—	—	4	—
Herb.								
Carduus Ben. _____	I	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Enemat. _____ M. 10	M. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foment. _____ M. 10	M. 10	—	—	3	—	—	2	—
Pectoral. _____ M. 10	M. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Lign.

			The Hall's Prices.			The Prices we can be serv'd by private Apothecaries.		
	lb.	oz.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Lign.								
Guajaci.	I				4			2
Sant. Rubr.	I			1	8		1	
Ol.								
Anisi. Ch.	I		I	6	8		12	
Catellorum.	I			2			1	6
Camemel.	I			1	8		1	4
Cargophilor Ch.		I		6			3	6
Hyperici.	I			2			1	4
Liliorum.	I			1	8		1	4
Lini.	I				9			7
Lumbruor.	I			2			1	6
Rosarum.	I			1	8		1	4
Rute Com.	I			2	8		1	4
Sambuci.	I			1	8		1	4
Succini.	I			12			6	8
Sulp per C.	I			16			8	
Terebinch.	I			1	4		1	
Pill.								
Ex Duobu.		I		2	6		1	8
Laud. Lond.		I		8			5	4
Stomach cu Gum.		I		1	8		1	
De Styrate.		I		2			1	4
Pul.								
Diagridis	I		I	8			6	8
Gascon.		I		8			6	
Refr. Maj.	I			4			2	
C. C. C.	I			2			1	4
Rad.								
Altheæ.	I			1				8
Gentian:	I			1	4			8
Ipecacuan.	I			4	6		3	6
Liquirit.	I			1	4			8
Rhabarb.	I		I	12		I		
Serp. Virg.	I			13	4		9	4

	lb.	oz.	The Hall's Prices.			The Prices we can be serv'd by private Apothecaries.		
			l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Sal.								
Abfinrh. _____	1			10	8		5	4
Cath. Amar. _____	1			1	6		1	
Prunel. _____	1			2			1	4
Tartari. _____	1			8			4	
Vitrioli. _____	1			8			4	
Sem.								
Anisi. _____	1			1	4			10
Coriandri. _____	1				8			4
Cardui. Ben. _____	1			2			1	
4 Frigid Maj. _____	1			2			1	4
Philli. _____	1			2	8		1	4
Spirit.								
C. Cervi. _____	1			12			6	
Cochlear. _____	1			5	4		3	
Lavendu'. _____	1			6	8		3	4
Nitri Dulc. _____	1			9	4		4	8
Sal. Armon. _____	1			8			4	
Sal. Vol. Oleos. _____	1			8			4	
Vini. Rect. _____	1			1	2		1	
Vitrioli. _____	1			4			2	
Syr.								
Oxym. Scil. _____	1			2			1	6
De Mecon. _____	1			2			1	6
De Spin. Cerv. _____	1			2	4		1	8
Mellis. Angl. _____	1				8			6
Tinct.								
Elixir Propr. _____	1			16			10	8
Laud. Liquid. _____	1		1	4			16	
Myrrhe _____	1			4			2	8
Martis. Myns. _____	1			12			8	
Vini Emer. _____	1			3			2	
Troch.								
Alb. Rhafis. _____	1			10	8			4

	lb.	oz.	The Hall's Prices.			The Prices we can be serv'd by private Apothecaries.		
			l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Ung.								
Alb. Camph. ———	I			I	6		I	2
Apostolor. ———	I			2	8		I	8
Ægyptiac. ———	I			2	8		I	8
Arcei. ———	I			4	—		3	4
Auxung. Porc. ———	I				8		—	6
Basilicon. ———	I			I	6		I	4
Diapomph. ———	I			2	—		I	4
Dialthæ. ———	I			I	8		I	4
Mel. Sapon. ———	I			I	4		I	—
Nervinum. ———	I			2	—		I	6
Populneum. ———	I			I	8		I	4
Prepar. Chym. varie.								
Alum. Uft. ———	I			4	—		2	8
Calomel. ———	I		I	I	4		16	—
Croc. Mar. Ap. ———	I			8	—		4	—
Croc. Mar. Astr. ———	I			8	—		4	—
Lap. Infern. ———	I			16	—		10	—
℞ Dulc. ———	I			16	—		10	8
Precip. Rub. ———	I			16	—		10	8
Refin. Jalap. ———	I	I		5	—		3	4
Tart. Emett. ———	I			16	—		10	—
Tart. Vitriol. ———	I			10	8		5	4
Turp. Min. ———	I		I	I	4		16	—
Orgent. Viv. ———	I			8	—		6	—
Bol. ver. ———	I			I	4		—	8
Cantharid. ———	I			8	—		6	8
Crem. Tartar. ———	I			2	8		I	6
Flor. Sulph. ———	I				8		—	6
Lap. Hybern. ———	I			I	4		—	8
Succ. Liquirit. H. ———	I			2	4		I	8
Pic. Burgund. ———	I				6		—	4
Tereb. Com. ———	I				6		—	4
Tereb. Vener. ———	I			2	0		I	4
Vitriol. Rom. ———	I			3	4		2	8

We

We will now appeal to any impartial Apothecary, or other Persons who are competent Judges of the Price of Druggs and Medicines, whether we might not be us'd with as much Conscience, were we equally Oblig'd to fit our Chests at a Tallymans; not but that the Order was granted you with a Noble Design of preventing those very Abuses which we are forc'd to suffer under the crafty Avarice, and fraudulent Exactions of you that are the Managers; nor should we have the least cause of Complaint against you, would you make good your assurances to his *Royal Highness*, or at least, instead of using us better and cheaper, furnish us but as well and as reasonably as we have always been Dealt by at private Shops, when we enjoy'd our Liberty of chusing our own Apothecaries.

Not that we are so Partial to our selves as either to desire, or expect that our Chests, so furnish'd, should pass into the Service without such a View as his *Royal Highness*, in his own Wisdom, should think most expedient, for that is no more than what is highly just and reasonable: But what Surgeon of the Navy amongst us can forbear thinking it a great Hardship? that we must lie at the Mercy of three or four Fumbling, Old, Miserly Curmudgeons, who are skill'd in little else besides getting

getting of Money, and which the World knows is the very principal End of all their Undertakings, let their Projects be couch'd under what pretences soever, and that we who understand our own Business a thousand times better than the Cabal can pretend to that preside over us, should be deny'd the Liberty of Buying our own Druggs and Medicines, and be forc'd to Truckle under the heavy Impositions of a parcel of grey Headed Cormorants, who sit at the Tavern in Ease and Safety, purring and contriving over their Cordials of *Canary*, how to mould us into such Conduit-Pipes, that may foolishly convey our own Money into their Coffers, for that in short is the only Design of their Amphibious Project; so we properly may call it, because it was hatch'd between a Fumbling Physician and a Grumbling Apothecary, to grind us out of the best part of our Wages, after we have justly deserv'd what we have a Title to receive, with the hazard, not only of our Lives, but of the Welfare of our Families.

Nor are we only abus'd in your Extravagant Prices, but often in the Staleness of your Druggs, and the Adulteration of your Medicines, which have been frequently found fault with by your Friend aforementioned, who most commonly views them, but still the Abuse is stiff'd by a private application of the true Golden Elixir, which
presently

presently remedies the Deficiencies of either Decay'd or Counterfeit, and makes 'em pass muster into the Navy Service, as well as the best Medicaments; for the hands of some Old Physicians are so benumb'd and harden'd with taking large Fees, that their Palms are unable to feel the difference between a Bribe and a Reward, so that every Gift may be sure of an avaritious Grasp that tumbles into their Clutches.

In the next place, tho' your specious Pretences, upon the advance of your Monopoly, were only to serve her Majesty's Navy with Medicines better and cheaper, yet you could not be content alone to engross that Business, but in the infancy of your Project, before you had prepar'd any, or at least very few Medicines at your Hall, according to your Proposals, you industriously insinuated your selves into some of the Committee of the *East-India* Company, that you might furnish their Ships and Factories abroad, and according to your Wishes prevail'd upon the Company to adorn your Caps with this fine new Feather, insomuch that you huddl'd up above Five hundred Pounds-worth of Druggs, Herbs, and Medicines for the Company's Service, in hopes that the same Impositions would have pass'd currant upon them, which you have so often repeated to the *Royal Navy*; but the Committee being appriz'd of your unfair Practices, order'd
some

some of their Members, who were well skill'd in Medicines, to inspect your Invoyses, who, upon a fair and impartial Examination, found you had put up vast Quantities of useles Druggs, and unnecessary Medicines, on purpose to multiply the Articles, and enhance the Sums of your Invoyses to your own advantage. But because they would not make use of their Power, as you do of yours, that is, to be Judges in their own Cause, they apply'd themselves to two Eminent Apothecaries in this Town, who jointly, with the Members of the *East-India* Company afore-mention'd, made an honest Report, free of all Partiality, to a General Committee ; the Purport of which was as follows,

A Recital of the Report.

Gentlemen,

HAVING with all imaginable Care, pursuant to your Orders, made a just and faithful Inspection, without the least Prejudice, of all the Invoyses of the several Parcels of Druggs, Herbs, and Medicines, put up at Apothecary's-Hall for the Service of the Company: We therefore think our selves oblig'd, in discharge of the Trust you have repos'd in us, to acquaint the Honourable Members of this General Committee, that all, and singular the said Invoyses committed to
our

our View and Consideration, are very Unskilfully and Ignorantly charg'd with unnecessary Druggs, and useless Medicines, some that are neither adapted to the Distempers incident to the several Factories, to which they are consign'd, and others unable to preserve their Efficacy during half the time of an East-India Voyage; and that all such Druggs and Medicaments, principally fit for the Honourable Company's Service in their Factories abroad are totally omitted, or at least inserted in such diminutive Quantities, as are wholly insufficient for that Service to which they are appointed.

We have also further observ'd, that in the Chests computed for 350 Men, that the Unskilful Composers have inserted no more in their Invoice than six Ounces of Manna, the same quantity of Spanish Flies, half a Pint of Treacle Water, and the like, which can serve only for an application to the President, and should any of the rest need it, they must be content without. The numerous Articles of their Invoices chiefly consisting of Conserve, Syrrups, Simple Waters, Useless Herbs, &c. insignificant Trifles of little Vertue, and very subject to decay, in all to the number of Ninety six Particulars, when every Honest and Skilful Apothecary must allow, that Fifteen at most of the numerous Diversity will answer the same Ends in all Cases wherein they shall be needful: So that we

F

cannot

cannot but conceive from good and reasonable Grounds, that the Invoyses have been Calculated for the private Ends of the Undertakers who have furnished you with such unnecessary Medicaments, much rather than for the Preservation, or Recovery of the Health of your Factories, according to the good Intention of the Worshipful Company.

No sooner had this Report found a speedy access to the Ears of your Cabal, in the beginning of your Monopoly, but you presently resolv'd upon the following Stratagem to revenge the Dishonour, which you knew in your Conscience you had but justly deserv'd.

And accordingly agreed (when your Noddles were inspir'd with a plentiful Glas) that when the two Apothecaries, who had assisted the Members of the *East-India* Company, were gone from home, you would craftily make use of the lucky Opportunity to get Samples of their Medicines, that pursuant to your Prejudice you might Judge and Condemn them, as you had unanimously resolv'd to do before ever you had view'd 'em, in hopes thereby to lessen the Credit of those Persons, who had discover'd your Collusions, so much to your disadvantage; notwithstanding you had before certify'd under your hands above fifty times the genuine Goodness of their Medicines.

As also, when by the Authority of your Order, together with the Contrivance of that busie Physician, your old fumbling Confederate, you had remanded some Chests, fitted out by the same Apothecaries, from *Portsmouth, Chattam,* and the *Downs*, in hopes to discover some Fraud or other that you might manage to Advantage; yet their Medicines prov'd so good, and their Honesty so great, that you could not find the most minute Fault with any of the Chests which had been fitted out by either of the two Apothecaries aforementioned, which was accordingly certify'd, not only by your selves, but also the Physicians in Commission for the Sick and Wounded.

However, in some time after, your Malice being agitated by the Detection of your Frauds, the Design you had form'd against the Discoverers of your Practices, was put in Execution so far, that you took away several Samples of Medicines from one of the Apothecary's Shop, which, according to your premeditated Judgment, you determin'd to be Bad; but the other Apothecary happening to be at home, so disappointed your purpose on his part, that you were forc'd to sneak off like a Gang of *Counter-Sergeants* baffl'd by a *Debtor* in the Execution of their Office, hanging down your heads like Mr. *Warden D—ys*, and his Dogs, who were brought along with you as very sutable assistance.

But the absent Apothecary, at whose Shop you had collected the Samples, being soon inform'd of the Measures you had taken, in order to perpetrate that Revengeful Mischief you had thus design'd, soon resolv'd upon a lucky Expedient that might Countermine your Stratagem, and turn the edge of the Weapon you had advanc'd against him, upon your own Foreheads.

Accordingly, he sends two Reputable Persons to each of your Shops to buy up Specimens of your own Medicines, with Orders, that every Mans Samples should be kept seperate, also mark'd with a distinct Number, that, if need requir'd, they might the better be qualify'd to make Oath of all the several Particulars, in case you should oppose the Truth with wrangling Objections, or false Equivocations.

The Apothecary thus provided to baffle your Design, and disappoint your Malice, attended your Cabal; and in answer to the Complaint you had exhibited against his Medicines, told you, *That the Samples you had taken were not fairly Collected, for that some of the Preparations were not thoroughly finish'd; but that he had brought some Specimens along with him, that he would presume to stand by; desiring your favourable Opinion of the same.*

Upon which your Grizly Worship, as full of Prejudice and Vengeance, as so many discarded

discarded Courtiers, unhasping the Cases of your artificial Eyes, presently Saddl'd your Noses with your Christial Spectacles, and by the necessary help of your magnifying Implements made so nice an inspection, that you Unanimously gave your Determinate Judgment, *That they were all Naught, Counterfeit, unfit for use, and much worse than the former, and that there was not one tolerable Medicine in the whole Packets.*

To which Condemnation, your Politick Antagonist made this reply, *viz. That he hop'd you would lay aside all Prejudice, and give a fair Judgment of the Specimens before you, according to the best of your Knowledge.*

But your vex'd Worships being spitefully stedfast in your partial Sentiments, resolv'd to abide by your first Opinion, and accordingly confirm'd your previous Judgment, with all the Severity that an obstinate Offender could reasonably expect from a powerful Bench of provok'd Judges,

Which was no sooner done, but the prudent Culprit, thinking it high time to rescue his Reputation from the inveterate Censures you had first wrongfully past upon the Samples you had collected unfairly from his Shop, began very Smilingly to acquaint your Gravities with all the Circumstances of the Affair premis'd, that the Imputation you had endeavour'd to fix upon him, might
return

return justly upon your selves, and make your fumbling Cabal become a common Laughing-Stock to your whole Fraternity.

Thus when you believ'd you had fully gratify'd your Revenge, and by the Wings of your Malice had fancifully climb'd to the very Zenith of Satisfaction, he Scoffingly declar'd, the Specimens you had view'd to be all your own Medicines; and to convince you of the truth, assur'd you, *The Persons who had bought them were waiting at the Door, and according to the Numbers of every Pot, Glass, or Paper, would readily make Oath that they were all Collected from your several Shops, without any Equivocation: Adding, That if any of you would send home for fresh Samples, and if they prov'd not the very same that were under your Condemnation, he would then give up the Cause, and patiently submit to that malicious Imputation, which otherwise must fall but justly upon your selves.*

But your disappointed Worships had more Wit in your Anger than to venture the Proof, or give your selves so unnecessary a trouble, since you were too well satisfy'd that your own Medicines had but truly deserv'd that very Sentence, which your Malice would have fix'd upon your Opposite's which were good, had he not had the Cunning to have circumvented your Design.

Besides, to further shew how far your Judgment is to be depended upon in such Cases,

Cases, you approv'd the *Gascoin's* Powder taken out of one Shop, and Condemn'd the same collected from another, as mix'd with Flower of Brimstone, when the latter had none but what had been borrow'd of the former, as was made manifest to your purblind Worship beyond all Objection.

Nor are the malicious Practices of your crafty Projector old G——p less visible upon other Occasions, for if any Member of your Society shall presume to complain of the arbitrary Measures us'd by him and his Accomplices to Bubble the Company, and bring them into Debt, in order to keep them in the greater Subjection : Specimens of his or their Medicines shall be presently sent for to your Hall, and, whether Good or Bad, shall be certainly condemn'd out of meer Prejudice, on purpose to lessen their Reputation, and destroy their Interest : Nor will your Leader, G——p, or your selves, lose any Opportunity of revenging any private Pique against any of your Fraternity after the same manner, as will appear sufficiently in the following Instance.

No sooner had Her Majesty been Graciously pleas'd to distinguish Mr. *Malthus* with so great a mark of Her Royal Favour as to appoint him Her Apothecary, but your Spiteful Old Fox, Mr. G——p, in Combination with your selves, procur'd Specimens of his Medicines out of meer Envy, in order

order to Condemn them according to your Prejudice, in hopes to render him thereby a Person unworthy of that Honour which Her Majesty had been pleas'd to confer upon him answerable to his Merit, forgetting how great an Affront it was to Royal Wisdom, in endeavouring to lessen the Credit of so good a Man, in whom the Best of Majesty's had very worthily repos'd so great a Confidence, especially when you had no just grounds to undervalue his Medicines, or to suspect his Integrity.

Therefore, how far it is reasonable that the Navy Surgeons should be oblig'd to depend upon the Justice and Judgment of such a Money loving Clan of old, fumbling, imperious, craving, ignorant Monopolists let the World Judge.

Or that such a Hungry Cabal of Insatiate Mamonists should have Cheque upon the Pay of so Considerable a Branch of Her Majesty's Navy, as the Fraternity of Surgeons imploy'd therein, cannot be thought reasonable by any who are acquainted with your ill Practices.

Nor do you only cover or secure your own Debts, under the Influence you have of granting, or refusing, forwarding, or delaying our Certificates, but also Debts due to any other Person or Persons who will but Bribe either your selves or your Clark to Certifie the same, as in its proper Place we shall make manifest.

Suppose

that de-
such
im-
the

Yards, Army, &c. without an Order to enjoin them, would become your Customers; for who would not Deal where they shall be serv'd Best and Cheapest?

Therefore we have reasons to believe, that others think you as Deceitful, and as Mercenary, as we have always found you; for your Usage is such, that no Body who knows you cares to have Dealings with you. So that we, who are the Surgeons of the Navy, think our selves oblig'd to Memorialize our Hardships, since our Noses alone are so severely held to your Unmerciful Grindstone.

But how, indeed, should we expect other than careless Mistakes, as well as willful Impositions, in the putting up our Medicines, since those, your Servants, who have the care of Compounding and Dispensing the same into our several Chests, according to the Invoices, are such indefatigable Sots, as to sit from Ten in the Morning till Ten at Night at the *Kings-Head Derby-Ale-House*, till they are forc'd to totter home with a Candle and Lanthorn, that Dances as they reel like an *Ignis fatuus* o'er a Country Common, leaving their Business to be dispatch'd by those who understand it as little as a *Horse-Mountebank* does the Goodness of those Medicines he recommends to the Multitude.

Having

Having thus far reminded you of the Frauds and Abuses we have detected in your Medicines, which, according to your Promise, should have been Better and Cheaper, we shall now proceed to the admirable Method you observe in Viewing our Chests when they are fitted for the Service ; for without the amicable Connivance of your good Friend in Commission, your Collusions would have much more difficulty to pass muster, than now they meet with : But some Physicians, to oblige you Apothecaries, will certify the Goodness of those Medicines they are no Judges of, as some Ignorant Council will set their Hands to warrant a Declaration which they cannot construe.

Amongst the wither'd Sons of *Æsculapius*, invested with the Authority of Supervising the Surgeons Chests, when fitted by your Wisdoms for the Navy Service, there is a certain Grave *Paracelsion* more busie than the rest, who, for the sake of some advantages that flow from the Monopolists, more constantly attends that weighty Business than any of his Brethren, not to detect Frauds for the Service of the Publick, but for the sinister Profit which he makes to himself by winking at your Errors.

Tho' we cannot but allow he has much more Wit than his fam'd *Clerkenwel* namesake, yet it is very wonderful that a Gentleman so Ignorant of Druggs and Medicines, before

he was Sworn into his Honourable Post, should immediately, by virtue of his new Authority, be so highly inspir'd with such proper Forms and regulating Measures, for the better Government of what related to the Exchange of Prisoners; as also to the perfect knowledge of Medicinal Preparations, insomuch that if he did but Peep into a *Venice Treacle Pot*, he could presently discover whether the *Trochisks* of *Squills* were made with white *Orabus*, or red *Cicers*, according to the Colledge, or with Powder of white *Dittony Roots*, pursuant to *Zwelfer*, deliver'd by *Moses Charras*, whether the *Viper* was Whip'd before he was Kill'd to drive the Venom into his Head and Tail, and afterwards Boild with *Salt* and *Dill*, in order to disperse what Poison was left in the enrag'd Creature; or that their Bodies were made into *Trochisks*, &c.

Also whether the *Trochisks*, *Hedychroi*, were first Made, and then Beaten with the rest of the Species; or the Ingredients only Dispenc'd, and Beaten therewith; or whether it had its full Proportion of *Opium*, *Opobalsamum*, *Cinamon*, *Spikenard*, *Saffron*, &c.

Nay, if he did but put his Nose to your *Oleum Catellorum*, he would presently find, by the Mystery of Sympathy, whether the Whelps you made it of were of a full Age or not.

Or

Or if he glanc'd but an Eye upon, or hung but his Judicious Nostrils over your *Gascoyn's Powder*, he could instantly discover, by a Protestant Miracle, whether the *Jesuitical Febrifuge* had its full quantity of *Arabian Bezor*, or whether, according to Hall Judgment, it was colour'd with Flower of *Brimstone*.

Besides, no sooner had he a Title, by his busie Imployment, to the Epithite of *Honourable* in the Superscription of his Letters, but he began to turn his Back upon the general Good, and to modesty every thing to his own private Ends, and wisely fore-seeing the many Advantages that would arise to himself from your crafty Project, thought it his Duty, because it was Interest, to lend a helping Hand to Establish your Monopoly, that your good Natur'd Worships might commit what Abuses you could make profitable, and himself have the Power of approving the same, for sundry sinister Reasons best known to your selves.

So that when our Chests are fitted at your Common Hall, which ought not to pass into the Service of the Navy without a regular View, at which one of the Commissioners of the Sick and Wounded at least, are most strictly requir'd to be there present, in order to prevent such Frauds and Collusions as might reasonably be suspected your Worships would be aiming at, who, above the rest, should

should be thought best Qualify'd to open one Hand, and wink with both Eyes, but the Honourable Doctor we have before hinted, who, to shew you his Justice, is very subject, for good reasons, to find Fault with your Practices, but is a worthy Gentleman of so forgiving a Temper, that if you tickle his Palm but under the Table, or take him by the Right Handle in a dark Corner, and he will no more open his Mouth to make mischief, than he would shut his Fist against a Fee for his Civility.

But notwithstanding you meet with such favourable Usage from a Friend who has so great a Superintendancy over you, yet willing sometimes to be good Husbards, and to save the Commissioners the Trouble of a View, you can dispatch the Business without their Assistance, and send away our Chests just furnish'd as you please, without any such View, or Inspection, as His Royal Highness's Order most strictly directs; the Truth of which we shall make manifest in the following Particulars.

Mr. C—se, then one of the Commissioners, a Gentleman of Integrity, and consequently not the same we have before mention'd, when he came first to your Hall to view the Medicines you were putting up for the Navy, ask'd If you had Sworn to the true Dispensing and Preparing of the same according to his Instructions, and your Proposals

posals made to His Royal Highness? To which you answer'd in the Negative; upon this the Commissioner refus'd his View, because you had neglected to perform your Duty. But being afterwards inform'd that it was a thing frequently done by the rest of the Commissioners, and that Mr. G——p would wait upon him over a Glass of Wine, and give him such Reasons that would remove the Scruples of his Conscience, upon which he comply'd to make a View tho' contrary to the Order you had receiv'd from the Admiralty.

Secondly, That it is your accustomary Practice, in direct Opposition to the Commands of His Royal Highness, to send away our Chests unview'd by any but the Master, or a Warden of the Surgeons Company, who are not now allow'd, to be sufficient Judges, except join'd with a Physician according to the Direction of His R——l H——s, it being no proper Branch of a Surgeon's Business to make Medicines, but to apply the same: Nor have you any Power, by the Prince's Order, to Seal up our Chests upon such a View, because there is no Commissioner then present as your Authority directs, yet, that you frequently Neglect your Duty in this Particular is very evident by the several Chests you lately sent on Board Her Majesty's Ships, *viz.* the *Humber*, *Boyn*, *Suffolk*, &c. Having only been view'd by the Master of Surgeons Company,

Company, and so dispatch'd without the Approbation of any one Commissioner, which gives you a large Opportunity of abusing us at Pleasure, without the danger of Detection.

Thirdly, That your crafty Worshipps who have ingross'd the management of this Profitable Concern, notwithstanding the Order was obtain'd in the Name of the Company, yet refuse to shew the Invoices of the Medicines you put up, even to some of your own Committee, only because you know them to be honest Men, and good Judges; and therefore the better Quallify'd to detect your Frauds: Nor do you suffer any Member of your Company, excepting those of your own Clan, to see or examine the Goodness of any one Medicine that you send away, that by the Friendly Connivance of your old Confederate Physician, your Collusions may pass muster with the greater safety.

Fourthly, That you Load our Chests with superfluous Druggs, and unreasonable quantities of Medicines, more than what can possibly be needful under the greatest Extremities; for suppose a General Sickness on Board we could not probably expend above one Moity of some Medicaments which you impose upon us; to prove the verity of which several of us have offer'd to tender our Oaths, yet can have no Redress. Notwithstanding Doctor A——s, your Friendly Commissioner, when he makes his View must know,

know, if he knows any thing, that it's a Hardship upon us, and therefore ought to moderate such Extreams to what is fair and reasonable : For why should we be forc'd to Pay for more than we can have occasion to Use ; since it is a common Practice with you upon the next refitting of our Chests, to cast away the Remains as stale and useless, tho' the fresh Medicines you impose upon us are no better than the old, only the more we have to Pay, the more you Gain, but the more we Lose.

Fifthly, That you exact Fifteen Shillings of every Surgeon of the Navy for the View of his Chest, excepting now and then one who is too stubborn to submit to so great an Imposition without much Contention, and such are sometimes favour'd more thro' fear than affection, but always with a caution, to keep your Kindness as a Secret. But that which makes it a greater Hardship is, That notwithstanding Her Majesty's Cruising-Frigates are not out at Sea sometimes above a Fortnight or Three Weeks together, yet, as oft as any such Ship shall come into Harbour our Chests must be subject to a Review, and our selves oblig'd to Pay Extravagantly for it, as before-mention'd.

Sixthly, That tho' your Medicines, upon a View, are disapprov'd, or their Number or Quantity disallow'd, because Unreasonable ; yet by Clandestine Means you get the

same Chests certify'd without Amendment or Alteration.

Many more Abuses relating to your Views could we easily enumerate, but the foregoing Particulars we hope at present will prove sufficient for our Purpose.

The next and greatest Oppression of all the rest, which we have long endur'd under your Mercenary Discipline, is the repeated difficulty we have always found in obtaining our Certificates, without which we cannot receive our Pay, tho' we have discharg'd our Duty with all imaginable punctuality: And that you shall not have room left to say that we complain without a Cause, we shall proceed to give you such particular Instances of your daily Abuses in this Affair also, that you shall not be able in any measure to extenuate by your Groundless Contradictions.

And that it has all along been a common Practice with your selves and your Agents, to exact Money of us, as well upon this, as many other Occasions, we shall prove as follows beyond all Objection.

The *Suffolk* and *Dolphin* Men of War arriving here in the Month of *January*, 1707. were order'd by the Navy, not long since, to be Paid off, upon which, the Surgeons thereunto belonging apply'd themselves to what your Worships are pleas'd to call a *Committee*, in order to obtain their Certificates, that they might receive their Wages; but the

answer

answer which they met with was, That you had sent them to your Agent, who attends the Pay at *Chattam*, where the Ships aforementioned were to be Paid; and giving too much Credit to your Shuffling Falsity, they went down accordingly, where your Agent assur'd them he had not receiv'd any such Certificates from you, so that, to their great Expence, as well as Disappointment, they were oblig'd to return to *London* without their Wages, having no way left but to apply themselves again to your Worshipful Committee in a more earnest manner: Upon which the Sugeon of the *Suffolk*, more Importunate of the two, was threaten'd to be broke of his Employment, and to be made an Example of, by one of your Cabal Nam'd R——, who told him, in warm Words, That he had not taken a Quantity of Medicines sufficient for the Service of the Ship's Company, notwithstanding he had produc'd his Captain's Certificate, that he had well and truly perform'd his Duty, and supply'd the said Ship, according to his Station, with all that was necessary.

But your Cavelling Objection, as it appear'd soon after, did not arise from any care or regard you had of her Majesty's Seamen, but was a politick Stratagem, form'd by Mr. G——p and your Broker, Mr. B——d, to frighten the Surgeon, that he might assign over his Wages to the Persons aforesaid for

ready Money at an unreasonable Discount: To effect which, your old principal Manager, Mr. G——*p*, follow'd the Surgeon out of the Hall, pretending to pity his hard Usage, and desired to Drink a Pint of Wine with him, that he might put him in a method how to procure his Wages, your Broker, Mr. B——*d* being also present at the Tavern, whose Business is chiefly to manage such Matters.

No sooner were they got over a Glass of Wine, but they began to hussle up the Surgeon as close as a Bubble between two Sweeteners, and to tell him how Angry the Committee were with him upon the Account aforesaid, insomuch that he would find great difficulty in obtaining his Certificate; however your Broker at last, willing to Oblige so civil a Gentleman, offer'd to Buy his Wages, being above 200*l.* at three Shillings *per* Pound Discount, and to pay him ready Money, pretending the hazard he should run was well deserving of the *Premium* he required, notwithstanding the Ship had been paid off some time; so that nothing could be wanting but your Hall Certificate to receive the Money.

The Surgeon being unwilling to allow so large a Discount too hastily, took Leisure to consider of it; so that several meetings were appointed, time after time, in hopes to bring him to a compliance, till at last the Surgeon being quite tir'd with his Attendance at
your

your Hall Spunging-House, and the Solicitation of your Committee to no purpose, having no other way left him, he agreed to allow two Shillings in the Pound; but the Writings not being ready, another meeting was appointed. In the mean time the Surgeon being inform'd this was your common Practice, and that his Certificate was withheld for no other reason, but to make him your Bubble, he recanted his Bargain the next Meeting, and threaten'd to complain to the Admiralty of your base Impositions, if he had not his Certificate forthwith. Your old Fox and his Understrapper finding themselves catch'd, were not a little surpriz'd, but still seem'd unwilling to relinquish their agreement without some Consideration for their Trouble and Expence; so that after some Debate, it was propos'd, That the Surgeon should give a Present of Rum to old G——p, and two Guineas to your Broker B——d, which he consented to do, and then they procur'd him his Certificate without further delay; but your Steersman, Mr. G——p, not satisfied with his Present, your Broker was forc'd to give him one of the Guineas, as he afterwards declar'd in the hearing of several, who are willing to testify the same. And that the Persons concern'd shall have no room left to shake off the Scandal of so foul a Practice, we have thought it necessary to insert an Affidavit made by the same Surgeon, who was thus impos'd on.

Southton.

SOUTHTON.

William Lake, now Master Surgeon of Her Majesty's Ship the Oxford, maketh Oath, That on, or about the Month of March last, he, this Deponent, then being Master Surgeon of Her Majesty's Ship the Suffolk, at sundry times, before the Ship last mention'd was Paid off, and Discharg'd, did make frequent, and pressing Applications to the Master, Wardens, &c. of Apothecary's Hall, in order to obtain Certificate, or Testimonial, pursuant to the late Establishment of the Navy, setting forth, That he, this Deponent, at that time was not Indebted to the said Company, and consequently remove all Objections that otherwise might hinder the Payment of his Wages, and other Moneys due in the said Ship Suffolk: That notwithstanding such his Applications, and particularly at a certain time, when a Committee of the Company was sitting on other Affairs, he, this Deponent, could not gain such a Certificate, altho' at that time he was no way Indebted to the said Company, untill he had promised a Reward, or Gratuity to a certain Agent, or Instrument belonging, as it is presum'd, to the aforesad Company, whose Name is Benjamin Beard, which said Agent, upon promise of the Reward premised, soon after procured a Certificate for the use of this Deponent, and received from
him

him therefore, two Guineas and six Bottles of Rum.

Jurat. fuit apud Gosport in
com. predict. Decimo
Octavo Die Novembrij.
Anno Dom. Coram me,
Henry Player.

William Lake.

Upon the Payment of Her Majesty's Ships last Year at the *Nore* and *Portsmouth*, great Complaints were made by the Navy Surgeons to the Controller of the Pay, of the many Abuses Practiced by you, the Managers at *Apothecary's-Hall*; amongst the rest, for having employ'd an Agent to receive the Debts due to you, from the respective Surgeons then in Her Majesty's Service, who was so negligent of his Duty, as not to attend the Pay of the said Ships; so that several of us were oblig'd to come to Town to get Certificates at your *Hall*, to the hazard of Her Majesty's Seamen on Board the Fleet, as well as injury to our selves, by our great Expences, yet most of us were sent back without our Certificates, under pretence you had dispatch'd them already to your Agent. Thus were we banded about like a Shuttlecock between two Battledores, and at last some of us forc'd Abroad, between your selves and your Agent, without our Wages, particularly the Surgeon of the *Assistance* to the *West-Indies*, &c.

To further remind you of your Honesty
and

and Justice, Mr. *Keating* went Surgeon in the *Dover* from *England* in 1706. and upon his arrival at *Lisbon* was discharg'd from that Ship, and appointed Surgeon of the *Mary*, the *Dover* being order'd from *Portugal* to *America*, and from thence back to *England*. The Surgeon who had quitted her sends his Journal and Tickets to his Attorney in *London*, that he might receive his Wages when the *Dover* was Paid: But the *Mary* coming Home before the Recall of the *Dover*, and being order'd to be Paid, you refus'd to grant a Certificate to the Surgeon for the last Ship, without Paying for the Medicines which the *Hall* had Furnish'd for the Service of the former, which, according to your Demand, he very readily satisfy'd, and your Mercenary Clerk gave him a Receipt for the same, together with a Certificate, that he might receive his Wages for both Ships. What Money was due for his Service in the *Mary* was immediately Paid him; but going again to Sea before the *Dover* was recall'd, his Attorney being in the Country, he, the said *Keating*, took his Certificate along with him; in a little time after the *Dover* was recall'd, and Mr. *Keating*'s Attorney apply'd himself to the *Hall* to procure a Certificate, that he might receive his Friend's Wages according to the Power given him, but was answer'd by that Imperious Prodigal your Clerk, That Mr. *Keating* ow'd the Company nine Pounds
Three

Three Shillings and Six Pence, or thereabouts, for the *Dover*, and that he could not have a Certificate unless he would Pay that Money, which the Attorney, not knowing the contrary, was forc'd to submit to, the Surgeon, Mr. *Keating*, being then out of *England*; but returning Home soon after, had an Account from his Attorney how the *Hall* had serv'd him, who, being much surpriz'd he should be so Knavishly impos'd upon, when he Ow'd them nothing, sent immediately to your Clerk, and charging him with the Fraud, shew'd him a Receipt in full, written by his own hand, who could not but acknowledge the Money was wrongfully detain'd, and Blushing at the Detection of his base Practices, would fain have shuffl'd the Fault upon the carelessness of his Clerks, tho' the whole Affair had been Transacted by no other Person but himself; so that if Mr. *Keating* had happen'd to Die at Sea, or any time before the Abuse had been Regulated, the Sum aforementioned would have been sunk from his Executors.

At another time, which was very lately, the same Mr. *Keating*, Surgeon of the *Mary*, apply'd to your blundering *Emanuensis Meers* for a Certificate for the Ship aforementioned, but, according to Custom, was confidently Answer'd by your Prodigal Saufox, That he was Indebted to the Company 30*l.* or more,

and that he should not have a Certificate till he had Paid the same. Mr. *Keating* being surpriz'd at so false a Charge, told him, For certain he was mistaken in the Account; for he was fully assur'd that most part of it had been already satisfi'd, which he presently render'd undeniably evident by convincing Circumstances, so that upon a full Examination of the whole Account, there appear'd no more than Four Pounds odd Money due to the Hall from the said Mr. *Keating*: Upon which your haughty Scribe was forc'd to lower his Top-sail, beg Pardon, grant him his Certificate, and entreat him to be silent; saying, *That no Man was Infallible, but all subject to Mistakes.* But had Mr. *Keating* Died before the Error had been rectified, it is likely his Executor must have paid the whole Sum, which was at first Demanded, for your Clerk is known to be an *Amicus Curiae* of that Christian Integrity, that he would hardly have relinquish'd any advantage he could have taken of the Widow, or the Fatherless, either to have serv'd himself, or you his Worshipful Masters.

Another Person, impower'd by Letter of Attorney, apply'd six or eight times to the said *Meers* for a Certificate for *Thomas Brown*, late Surgeon of the *Fox Prize*, who was just before gone in the *Blast-Bomb* to the *Mediterranean*. The said *Brown* then Owing the *Company* about
three

three or four pounds, (having before received his Freegift Money,) which his Attorney offer'd to Pay; but *Meers* refus'd to give a Certificate, unless he would Pay him sixteen Pound odd Money *Brown* Ow'd you for his present fitting for the *Blast-Bomb*, tho' he had not then near so much Wages due in that Vessel, upon which he told your Clerk 'twas not accustomary to Pay Money for the Chest, before it became due in the Ship they then fitted for, but *Meers* presently answer'd, viz. If he would not Pay it, he might let it alone, but that he would not grant a Certificate without; so the Attorney was oblig'd to allow it him, else he could not have received his Wages in the *Fox*: *Meers* also added he would always take Money when he could get it, which Honesty he has also Taught his Clerks; for they will never dispatch a Certificate, or such like Business, for any Surgeon, or their Attorney, always pretending other Business in greater haste, without Expedition Money, as by the following Letter from one of the Clerks will be made evident.

S I R,

According to your desire I have sent you a Certificate for the Nonsuch, and hope that you will, according to
I 2 your

(66)

your Promise, remember me for my Expedition.

Yours

John Carter.

*Apothecary's-Hall,
10 April, 1707.*

*To Mr. Ch. Pickman, Stationer, in
Upper-Shadwell, near the Church.*

These present.

Another Hardship which you impose upon us, is, That notwithstanding your care in appointing a Clerk, or Agent, to attend the Pay of all Ships, to stop such Moneys as are due to the Hall from the respective Surgeons, as well other Debts, as those contracted upon the account of the Service, yet it is your common, tho' unreasonable Practice, to exact Bonds of great Penalties from us, to advance the Fees of your Clerk, which you never send down to the Payment of the Ships, but only a Certificate of what is due to you, by Virtue of which the Debt is stopp'd by your Agent

Agent, and accordingly Paid you ; yet you afterwards refuse to deliver up the Bonds to our Attorneys, or our selves, without abundance of Trouble as well as Expence, but detain them from us uncanceled, notwithstanding they are satisfy'd, as if you design'd, in case of Death, to put them wrongfully in Sute against our Widows, or Executors, the Money so Paid, being not set off in the Ship's Books.

Further, That when we are no ways indebted to your Hall for Medicines, or upon any other Account, yet your Clerk, or Agent, shall be impower'd to receive our Free-Gift Bills, made out by the Commissioners of the Navy, tho' our selves are order'd to receive the same. So that the Money, when we want it, is often with-held from us, to our great Damage and Inconveniency ; nor can we at last recover it into our own Hands without some Expence, and much Trouble.

Another Instance of the insufferable Hardships you impose upon us, is the Case of Mr. *Edward Parry*, late Surgeon of the *Panther*, who having receiv'd some Medicines in the *Mediterranean* from Mr. *Christie*, Surgeon of an Hospital Ship, had a stop put upon his Wages, viz. Two hundred and odd Pounds, at the request of the Hall-Managers, when the Money charg'd for the said Medicines amounted to no more than Thirteen

teen Shillings, which he, the said *Parry*, had also satisfy'd near three Years since, as appear'd afterwards by undeniable Proof. For Mr. *Parry* being appointed Surgeon of the *Norfolk*, was Commanded again to Sea before the *Panther* was Paid, which put him upon a necessity of appointing a certain Friend to receive his Wages, who, in consideration thereof, advanc'd him an Equivolent to supply his Streights, not doubting but by the Power given him, he should receive what was due to the said *Parry* when the Ship was Paid, which did not happen till Mr. *Parry* was out of *England*; so that when his Attorney, upon the Payment of the *Panther*, went to receive the Two hundred and odd Pounds due to the said *Parry*, he found a stop put upon his whole Pay by the Order of the Hall, so that to his great Dammage, as well as Disappointment, he was forc'd to return without the Money, or any part thereof, who being much surpriz'd at this unexpected Obstacle, had recourse to the Hall to enquire into the Reasons of the hard Usage he had met with, where he was Satisfily answer'd by that Prodigal Ignoramus, your Mercenary Clerk, *Meers*, That Mr. *Parry* was indebted to the Company, but what the Sum was he could not remember, or had he leisure to search; so that the Attorney had abundance of trouble before he could prevail with

with him to overlook his Books, wherein, at last, all things, upon search, appear'd to be fully satisfy'd, and that the Thirteen Shillings for the Medicines receiv'd of Mr. *Christie* had been Paid by the said *Parry* near three Years, so that the stop aforementioned had been only continu'd on, that your designing Clerk might take the advantage of Mr. *Parry's* absence, and extort Money from his Attorney, had he prov'd so easie a Man as to have been Bugbear'd by a Buzzard: But, however, the Attorney losing his Opportunity when the *Panther* was Paid, must now be forc'd, without any Satisfaction, to wait for his Money till a recall of the Ship, which, for ought he knows, may not happen these Twelve Months; Therefore it is a hard Case, that such Ill, or Careless Persons should have check upon our Pay, who, either thro' Knavery or Negligence, make us liable so often to such intolerable Abuses.

Having thus prov'd by undeniable Instances, the Charge in general we have Exhibited against you, we shall now Present you with a short Summary of all our Grievances under the following Heads, that you may see at one Glance all the several Abuses which your selves and your Servants Dayly Practice upon us.

- I. The Extortion you force us to Pay for
our

our Medicines, under the pretence of furnishing us much Better and Cheeper.

II. The Unreasonable Exactions of your Mercenary, Saufie, and Imperious Clerk upon all Occasions.

III. The Extravagant Premiums we are forc'd to Pay for our Certificates, besides Expedition Money to your Proud Scribe, and his Underlins.

IV. Our Expensive Journeys, very often occasion'd by your Prevarications and Delays of our Certificates.

V. Unreasonable Discounts for prompt Payment, when our Money, at the same time, is both Due and Payable.

VI. The large Reckonings we are forc'd to Pay to the Weigher of your Medicines, who keeps your Hall Spunging-House, without which we should be but ill serv'd ; nor can we expect any other than Round Scoring, since he fausly boasts he knows so much of your K——y, that you dare not turn him off.

VII. Our Treating and Bribing your worthless Understrappers to get our Business dispatch'd.

VIII. The

VIII. The valuable Presents we are forc'd to make to your Managing Leaders to Expediate our Certificates.

IX. Our Payment of fifteen Shillings for every View and Review of our Chests, besides half a Crown to the Beadle's Wife for Sweeping the Hall.

All which are undeniable Fact, as we appeal to God and your own Consciences.

How therefore can we think it otherwise than an insufferable Hardship, that we, the Surgeons of the Navy, such Useful Members in the Common-Wealth, so Serviceable to the Government at Sea, and so highly Conducing to the Health and Preservation of Her Majesty's Subjects, should be under the Cheque of so Mercenary a Servant as your Imperious Clerk; and be forc'd to Pray, Pay, Sneak and Cringe, to so worthless a Fellow to obtain our Certificates: For as the Case stands, tho' we have perform'd our Duty without the least Objection, yet if we do not submit to the unreasonable Demands and unlawful Exactions of your Hungry Clerk, we shall be put to the trouble of such Expensive Attendance, and other Impositions, which are indeed intolerable.

K

When

When the Power of Granting Warrants for Ships was lodg'd in the Clerk of the Surgeons Company, thro' their great Oversight and Negligence, such a Tyrannical Use was soon made of it, that we were forc'd to Complain of our hard Usage under his Imperious Deportment, till we got that Grievance Redress'd. But the Power of Granting, or Refusing our Certificates, which your Worships have lodg'd in your Insolent Scribe, who, contrary to all Justice, makes us Pay for 'em, as if we had no title to the Wages allow'd us by the Government, without the consent of such a Prodigal, is so great an Oppression to all the Navy Surgeons, that we are not able to Subsist our Families under the many hardships which your selves, and him together, daily accumulate upon us.

Besides, is it not an insufferable Imposition upon the Master Surgeons of the Navy, that such a Servile Scribler, as the Clerk of your Company, shall undertake, in the Absence of any Surgeon in Her Majesty's Service, to pay those Debts, for the sake of unreasonable Poundage, which we shall happen to Contract upon such Accounts, that even his Masters, the Company, have no manner of Authority

to meddle or make with? For, your
 Worships are sensible, you have no
 Order to put any stop upon our
 Wages, but in case of such Debts which
 are owing to your Hall for fitting out
 our Chests, or Recruits of Medicines,
 which we are at present unhappily ob-
 lig'd to receive from you: But your
 Saucy and Incroaching Clerk, makes it
 his Common Practice to Buy up all our
 other Debts he can meet with, perhaps
 at the Scandalous Discount of one half,
 according to the necessity of the Creditors
 who apply to him; and when, by vir-
 tue of an Assignment, he has thus pur-
 chas'd a Title to receive the Money, he
 then, contrary to all Justice, includes the
 said Debts in our next Certificates with
 what we Owe to the Hall for Medicines,
 which last, is the only Debt that pro-
 perly lies under the Company's Cogni-
 zance. So that by these Fraudulent Means,
 neither our selves, or our Attorneys can
 receive our Wages, tho' we are willing
 to satisfy the Hall to the utmost Far-
 thing of what is Due to you, till we
 have allow'd the whole patch'd Account
 that is bought up, and brought against
 us by your Mercenary Pettyfogger, for
 there's a stop always made and continu'd at
 the Pay-Table, till we are willing to allow

the whole Charge crowded into the Certificate.

This intollerable Abuse, has been lately practic'd by your Clerk, upon the late Surgeon of Her Majesty's Ship the *King-fale*, which was paid at *Chattam*, in *June*, 1708. at which time the Surgeon's Attorney attended to receive his Friends Wages, but, thro' the Vigilance of your Clerk, a Certificate was deliver'd in at the Pay-Table, in order to stop 34*l.* 12*s.* tho' the said Surgeon ow'd the Company at that time no more than Seven Pounds Twelve Shillings. So that your Debt-Jobber, *Meers*, had foisted Twenty Seven Pounds more into the Certificate than what was due to you for Medicines; and it is not to be doubted but he was paid by the Creditor very large Interest for his Civility, if he had not by purchase made the whole Principal Debt his own Property.

We therefore most Humbly hope, the Power, whose Good Intentions you have so heineously Abus'd, will vouchsafe to Rescue us from the heavy Impositions you are pleas'd, beneath the Umbrage of your Order, to heap upon us, that we may no longer Groan, like Asses, under the Gauling Weight of such intollerable Burthens;

Burthens ; which are not only a great Uneasiness to our selves, but the Causes of many Discontents and Hardships to our Wives and Children, when we are Venturing our Lives in the Service of the Government, which God Establish and Preserve upon a Just and Lasting Foundation. *Amen.*

The following Particular being omitted, by accident, in its proper Place, we have here enter'd it by way of Post-script.

G. *Joyce*, late Surgeon of the *Swallow-Prize*, *Dolphin*, &c. being lately come home from a Foreign Voyage, and having a considerable Sum of Money due in those Ships, apply'd to the Clerk of your Company for his Certificate, and several times offer'd to pay what was due to you for Medicines for the Ships aforementioned, but could not procure the same till he had given both *Meers* and his Under-Clerks Expedition-Money, as they call it ; tho' he had been at the Hall waiting and depending more than Seventy times, as he has made Affidavit thereof.



191
2

